

REMARKS

Claims 39-44 and 47-49 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicants note that claims 39 and 42 have been amended as requested by the Examiner to correct a misspelled word. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 39-44 and 47-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stumpf et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5755148) in view of Cotton et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4892022) and Brundage et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4934233) or Emmons (U.S. Pat. No. 2861607). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 39-44 and 47-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brault et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6431042) in view of Cotton et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4892022), Stumpf et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5755148), and Brundage et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4934233) or Emmons (U.S. Pat. No. 2861607). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the remaining claims 39-44 and 47-49 were all rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in which commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 5,755,148 to Stumpf was relied upon by the Examiner for making the rejection. Applicants submit herewith a Statement of Common Ownership of Prior Art Citation and Invention to Disqualify the '148 Reference as Prior Art Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Furthermore,

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer relating to the '148 patent to overcome any potential double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections that the Examiner might provide. See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1)-(3). Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 39, 42 and 47, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are all now in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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